

Alumni Columns

Magazine

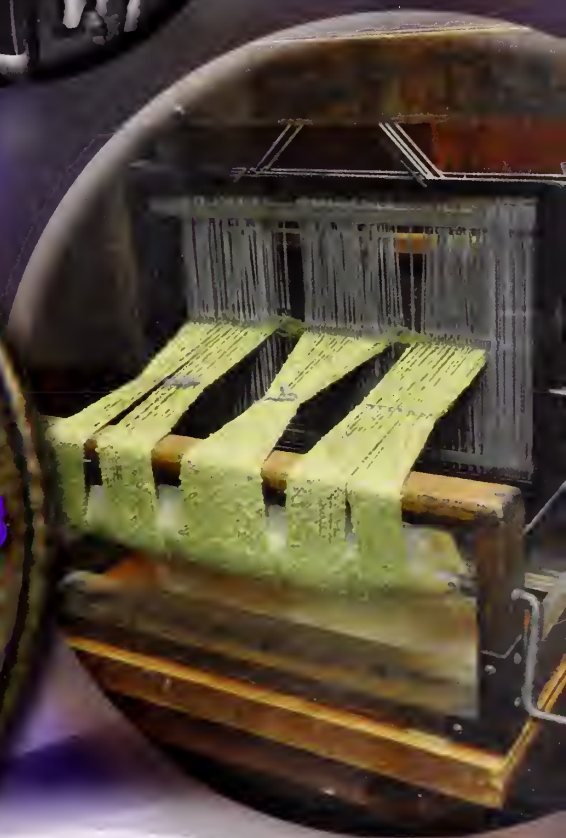
Winter 2011

Northwestern State University of Louisiana



Family & Consumer Sciences

100 Years





Dr. Randall J. Webb, 1965, 1966
President, Northwestern State University

Dear alumni:

Happy holidays to all of you. I hope your holiday season is filled with joy and good times with friends and family. This time of year is special to all of us in Natchitoches and it makes us grateful to be part of this unique community.

The fall semester was an outstanding one for Northwestern State University and we look forward to a successful spring semester. Fall enrollment was larger than expected at 9,191 students. Our freshman class was up by 81 students and this year's freshman class had an average ACT score above the state and national averages.

We are eagerly anticipating the opening of the new Student Services Center this spring. The building will bring together under one roof a number of offices that assist students. Please check our Website at nsula.edu for the date and time of our ribbon cutting for this facility. We will also have more news soon on the renovation project for historic East Caspari Hall.

One of the most exciting developments of the semester was the signing of an agreement with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana to offer educational and professional development opportunities with the federally recognized Native American tribe. Beginning this spring, Northwestern State will offer classes at the Tunica-Biloxi Center in Marksville. This agreement will be a big boost to Avoyelles and neighboring parishes and we look forward to working closely with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe.

Thank you for all you do to support Northwestern State University. We are looking forward to more great accomplishments in 2012.

William Drake Owens, 2004, 2005
Director of University Advancement

My fellow alumni,

We are at the close of one of the most memorable fall seasons anyone in Natchitoches can remember. Several milestone events and a spectacular Homecoming weekend brought many visitors back to Northwestern State. More than a few individuals pointed out to me how nice the campus looks and were complimentary of the City of Natchitoches for its welcoming atmosphere and great support for Northwestern State.

I hope you will enjoy a new feature of Alumni Columns, our "Making an Impact" series, which will highlight the work of individuals whose endeavors improve the greater good. Northwestern State has for the last several years placed a strong emphasis on service-learning to provide students with opportunities to use their focus of study to help others. We have found that Northwestern State staff, students and alumni carry this sensitivity well beyond the classroom and are making an impact in their communities and in the lives of others.

Friends, we have much to be thankful for this holiday season and I extend to you warmest greetings as I look forward with optimism to a productive 2012.



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Family & Consumer Sciences

Department marks centennial of caring, nurturing and management

A discipline founded in overseeing the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities is celebrating its centennial at Northwestern State University. The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, originally designed to instruct students in food science, health and home management, remains relevant in the 21st century for its role in advocacy for children and family issues, public health and consumer education.

"Family and consumer science teaches skills for every day living," said Dr. Patricia Pierson, dean of the Department, which is housed within the College of Science and Technology. "Even though society has changed, there is still a need for knowledge and instruction in our core components of managing your home, your health, your budget and your family."

In the early 20th century, domestic science was regarded as an important scientific discipline that required applied knowledge in chemistry, biology, physiology, engineering and other branches of science and mathematics to provide vital information on health and hygiene, nutrition, food preparation and preservation, childcare, finance and home management. Today, Northwestern State graduates of FACS – both male and female -- are prepared for careers in culinary arts, early childhood education, the travel industry, hospitality and recreation, hotel and/or restaurant management, nutrition, dietetics and, until recently, fashion and retail.

The roots of the department are in a weaving and textiles course offered at Louisiana Normal as early as 1904, which was expanded into domestic science and art in 1911 and housed in one room in Caldwell Hall. In 1917, when U.S. Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act that provided support to educate home economics teachers for elementary, middle and high schools, students at Louisiana Normal -- primarily young women -- fulfilled that need. By 1919 Louisiana Normal students who completed the home economics course were certified to teach in Louisiana high schools. A Euthenics Club was established in the department in 1926, the precursor of Kappa Omicron Nu Fraternity chartered in 1977. Northwestern State awarded its first master's degree in home economics to Margaret Ackel in 1957 and established a master's program in early childhood education in 1971.

Over the decades, Northwestern State graduates made significant contributions to home economics in the public school system, through extension services and through their work for private businesses.

Boxes of vintage photographs, scrapbooks and mementos from the department's early days through the 1980s provide a glimpse of how domestic life and



Teaching and caring for small children as part of the home economics curriculum led to the creation of a campus nursery school, now known as the Marie Shaw Dunn Child Development Center.



The home economics department at Northwestern State was founded on a weaving and textiles course, which was still part of the curriculum in the mid-20th century.

women's roles changed throughout the 20th century and how the department adapted with the times.

"Weaving is pretty much a lost art," Pierson said, but students also learned upholstery, landscaping and clothing construction with many students photographed modeling smart tailored suits, fur-trimmed dress coats, cocktail dresses and wedding gowns. The photos docu-

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FACS continued from page 1

ment decades of summer receptions, formal dinners and students presenting demonstrations on nutrition, working with preschoolers and - replete with white uniforms and hairnets - at work in the kitchen.

"In the '50s and '60s, we offered specialty areas so our graduates would have employable skills. A home economics degree made women employable for food companies, or they might find work doing home demonstrations or with a cooperative extension office. Even electric companies would hire representatives to show their customers things like how to most efficiently use their energy," Pierson said.

Dieticians were qualified to work at hospitals, schools or anywhere that utilized institutional food services. There was a focus on social welfare, particularly in rural areas, and classes in child development were an extension of learning family health management.

"Before mandatory kindergarten, small children were taught in the home. Dr. [Marie Shaw] Dunn created a child development concentration and realized that students needed a laboratory experience, so in 1935 she started the nursery school that is now the Child Development Center," Pierson said. "NSU was the first school in the state to have that. It was originally open to the children of faculty and employees. If you took child development courses, you had to do a practicum. Eventually, child development broadened into early childhood education."

For several decades, home ec students lived in and maintained a practice cottage, constructed in 1925 for \$12,000. Students were required to live in the home for one semester, planning and preparing meals, often for invited guests. When the new president's residence was completed in 1970, the same year that Northwestern received its university designation, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold



In decades past, the Department hosted formal dinners for upperclassmen, administrators and guests, such as the international-themed event pictured above.

Kilpatrick handed over the keys to their former home to be used as the department's home management house.

Dr. Cheryl McBride, assistant professor of FACS and advisor for undergraduates concentrating in early childhood, lived in the house as a newlywed beginning in the fall of 1978. She and her husband Bill were both pursuing graduate degrees and had been married two weeks when they moved in, occupying the downstairs while six or eight girls lived upstairs.

"My graduate assistantship was living in the house, sort of like a house mother," she said. "They had never had a man in the house before and Bill was not allowed to go upstairs. I had to lock the house at midnight every night and make sure everybody was there. The girls prepared breakfast every morning and they would knock on the door and say 'Breakfast is served.'"

In addition to breakfast, the McBrides had to eat at least one other meal in the house per day. They lived in the home for a year while Cheryl worked in the half-day program for infants.

"We started with three bed babies and the students would observe the infants. You know how much a baby

can change in a year. We were very attached to the children," she said.

The home management house eventually became too cost prohibitive to maintain and in 1983 it was turned over to its current occupants, Alumni and Development.

In 1946, the Department of Home Economics requested funds for a new building, which was dedicated in 1950 when undergraduate programs included dietetics, general home economics, home economics education and early childhood education. The new building featured a formal living room that was used for receptions, luncheons, club meetings and other social functions. Those events gave students experience in planning, preparation and presentation for an event, from the meal management and food science aspect down to the flower arrangements.

Just as families hand down serving pieces through generations, many items still housed in the department were used by young women nearly a century ago.

"We still have that punch bowl," Pierson noted, sifting through photos. "I also found some silver flatware upstairs that is engraved 'LSN' for Louisiana State Normal."

In 1986, the department commemorated its 75th anniversary by

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unveiling portraits of department administrators Ruby Dunckelman and Minnie Lee Odom. Those portraits still hang in the Family and Consumer Sciences building, which was renovated and reopened in 2003. That same year, the early childhood degree program was redesigned to certify teachers for pre-kindergarten through third grade.

A capable, can-do spirit is common among students in Family and Consumer Sciences.

"Our students do tend to be practical, good managers and pay attention to detail," said Pierson, who described her high school economics teacher as a great mentor and influenced her decision to pursue the degree.

"I liked the management side of it, consumer education, making good decisions. Those skills are applicable to your personal life and career," she said.

In the 1990s, the focus of home economics broadened, along with a name change when the profession officially became Family and Consumer Sciences. In 1994, Northwest-

ern State introduced a new bachelor's program in hospitality management and tourism (HMT), a field that drew more male students to the department. One of those was Todd Barrios (1993), who was the first and only male student to earn Northwestern State's Esther Cooley Award presented annually to an outstanding graduate based on academics, involvement and leadership. Barrios, a professional chef, returned to NSU as an instructor to help launch the culinary arts concentration in 2005.

Departmental photos from the last 10 years depict culinary arts students in garde-manger classes and costumed HMT students presenting the International Festival of Cuisines and Cultures for the community.

In recent years, budget cuts have negatively affected Family and Consumer Science programs across the country. Many FACS professionals lament that home economics courses have been eliminated from schools and that many youngsters never learn basic nutrition and meal preparation. Public health experts believe this is reflected in America's alarm-

ing obesity crisis. Meanwhile, some graduates enter the job market with little practical knowledge of social and business etiquette, budgeting, managing credit or paying bills.

At Northwestern State, administrators were forced to eliminate the fashion merchandising concentration. In January 2011, Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences Bette Howell-Maroney accompanied the last group of fashion merchandising students to New York, a study experience she had coordinated since 1990. The tours consisted of several days of meetings with professionals in the fashion industry, including appointments at Chanel, Ralph Lauren, Oscar de la Renta, Geoffrey Beene, Kenneth Cole, Jessica McClintock, Ellen Tracy, Guess and Carol Little, as well as behind the scenes at retailers such as Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Saks 5th Avenue, Prada, Sephora and more. In addition to the industry appointments, the students experienced Broadway plays and were in studio audiences at *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Montell Williams* and the *Martha Stewart Show*.

Programs currently offered include Family and Consumer Sciences with concentrations in consumer services and child development and family relations; hospitality management and tourism with concentrations in culinary arts, hospitality services and travel and tourism; and early childhood education.

A mid-century brochure describes the scope of home economics to prospective students stating "Home economics is so closely related to patterns of living that it is always a timely field and a permanent one."

Pierson echoed those sentiments.

"Family and Consumer Science addresses the needs of people throughout their lifespan," she said. "It begins with care of infants, addresses family needs and now there is a large interest in geriatric care. It's a field that teaches skills for managing many aspects of a person's life."



Fashion students who met with David Wolfe, creative director for the Doneger Group in New York were, front row from left, Katie Dyer of Shreveport, Chloe Christiansen of Mandeville, Kelee Grimes of Pineville, Brooke Nielson of Natchitoches, Wolfe, Jasmine Eugene of New Orleans, Jennifer Gernand of Prairieville and Andrea Warren of Lake Charles. On the back row are Ashley Williams of Sulphur, Jordan McLamore of Paris, Texas; Sara Wilson of Natchitoches, Jasmine Torregano of Marrero and Jordan Buisson of New Orleans. This group was the last of the fashion merchandising students to participate in the National Retail Federation's Big Show in New York in January 2011. Bette Howell-Maroney, associate professor of Family and Consumer Sciences, accompanied students to New York from 1990-2011 as part of their degree requirements as fashion majors.

American Girl author highlights Creole culture in new series

Denise Lewis Patrick (1977) is co-author of an *American Girl* new historical series. The six-book series is set in 1850s New Orleans and explores the friendship of two characters, Cécile Ray and Marie-Grace Gardner.

American Girl is a popular line of dolls for children ages 9-13 that portray girls of a variety of ethnicities living in various times throughout American history. Each is sold with accompanying books told from the viewpoint of the girls.

Patrick's research produced Cécile, a bold, confident girl from a well-to-do African-American family who lives a privileged life in New Orleans' vibrant community of free people of color.

Patrick pored over old newspapers, drawings, narratives and diaries to learn about New Orleans of the 1850s, how the city looked, social customs and where people of color worked and lived.

"I read about yellow fever and how that terrible disease affected everyone who lived in the city. I imagined that people must have felt in many ways the same as they did after Hurricane Katrina or after 9/11 in New York," she said. "I decided that I wanted Cécile's stories to show how something so big touched and changed the lives of real, normal people."

Patrick is a native of Natchitoches and now resides in Montclair, N.Y. She has always loved words. Her Natchitoches grandmother was a great reader and her New Orleans grandmother was a great storyteller. Before she could write, she invented names and stories for her dolls and eventually drew cartoon characters and created comic strips about them.

"I loved writing so much that I wrote and illustrated my very first book when I was about 10. It was a mystery story. I sewed the pages together on my mom's sewing machine and glued yellow cloth to cardboard for the cover. I still have it," she said.

In high school, Patrick wrote for the school newspaper and provided spot art as filler. After earning her degree in journalism at Northwestern State, she moved to New York City, where she worked briefly in magazine and newspaper jobs before beginning a career in the children's publishing industry as an assistant and later an associate editor at Scholastic, Inc. During her years there, Patrick wrote and edited news stories, plays and puzzles for students in fourth through sixth grades. She also wrote classroom materials for teachers. She eventually became editor at Joshua Morris Publishing, where she developed and edited mass-market children's books.

Over the years, she worked on various free-lance and work-for-hire projects. She has written narratives for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center's exhibitions and preschool board books adapted from episodes of the Gullah Gullah Island television series. She was also a project editor for Macmillan Publishing's "Adventures of

Raggedy Ann" book series and has written for Children's Television Workshop publications Golden Publishing.

"I finally got the courage to write my own book after I remembered my favorite red Sunday shoes. I loved those shoes, just like the little girl in my first picture book, *Red Dancing Shoes*," she said.

With *Red Dancing Shoes*, Patrick made the transition from writer to author. Her subsequent work includes several picture books and two historical fiction novels for middle graders, *The Adventures of Midnight Son* (Holt, 1997) and *The Longest Ride* (Holt 1999). Both were selected as New York Public Library Best Books for The Teenage. *Meet Cécile*, *Troubles for Cécile* and *Cécile's Gift* are her first books for American Girl.

At the same time Patrick has pursued writing, she has been a wife and mother to four sons, with the youngest now in high school. As her sons grew, she became involved with writing in schools, first as a volunteer. For five years, she served as a manager of a revision-based writing program for a local middle school, where she helped provide one-on-one student "coaching" on various writing projects. She also worked in this capacity for one year with high school students.

Patrick's strong connection to student writing has continued. Today, she is a volunteer mentor for a middle school all-girls writing club, Inklings, and since the fall of 2010, she has been an adjunct professor of intermediate writing at Nyack College's Manhattan, N.Y., campus.



Rabalais named PBS Teacher Innovator

Northwestern State University alumnus Mark Rabalais won the PBS Teacher Innovation Award, an honor that recognizes innovative teaching methods in high school education. Rabalais was among 12 first place winners from across the United States to earn the honor for a project he directed in which students completed research through digital storytelling. He teaches ninth grade geography at Pineville High School, his alma mater.

In the "Discovering Africa Project," Rabalais's students were tasked with investigating the physical geography of Africa and related social or geopolitical problems like desertification, water scarcity, education and cultural conflicts. The students created mockumentaries after watching PBS documentaries that addressed similar issues.

As an award-winner, Rabalais received a week long "Innovation Immersion Experience" at The Henry

Ford Museum in Dearborn, Mich., a SMART Slate™ wireless slate, a free PBS TeacherLine professional development course and a tote bag of PBS gifts.

Rabalais is in his sixth year teaching freshman geography at Pineville High. He graduated from Northwestern State with a bachelor's degree in fine arts in 2006 and in 2007 completed a master's in art. In 2008, he earned certification through Louisiana College's TEACH program. Rabalais graduated last December with a master of education in educational leadership and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education in educational leadership from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Although he had little experience working with film, he recognizes it as a medium that allows his students to be innovative.

During the course of his employment, Rabalais has been honored as

Pineville High School Teacher of the Year, a Rapides Parish 21st Century Mentor and was recognized for excellence in teaching high school social studies.

"I didn't discover my passion for education until after I started to teach," he said. "I thought it was going to be a temporary occupation but it has been six years and I am still loving it."

As a class, Rabalais's students held a school-wide drive called "PH20: Charity, Always Refreshing." The students designed and sold shirts to raise awareness of education, healthcare, the need for mosquito nets, scarcity of resources and other issues in war-torn areas of Africa. Students raised over \$1,000 to donate towards the construction of a well in Africa.

To view the projects completed by Pineville High students, go to www.pbs.org/teachers/innovators/gallery/2011/entries/797/.

DeVile creates Antoon's print; proceeds will benefit scholarship fund

The NSU Foundation is selling a print by Natchitoches artist Denise Deville (1993) to raise funds for the Johnny Antoon Endowed Scholarship at Northwestern State University.

The print, *Antoon's Liquor Store*, is Deville's rendering of Antoon's business on the Highway 1 Bypass in Natchitoches. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go towards the scholarship.

"Denise is a very talented artist. Seeing the print for the first time brought back so many memories for me," said Antoon (1968). "I am honored and humbled to have a scholarship established in my name and to know that so many people generously contributed toward it. My family and I love Northwestern so much. It means so much to me that a scholarship set up in my honor will help students get an education."

The scholarship was started in 2008 and announced at a 65th birthday party celebration for Antoon, a Northwestern State alumnus who has been a Natchitoches businessman for almost 40 years. More than \$44,000 has been raised for the scholarship. The 2010-11 recipient of the scholarship was Justin Goleman of Winnfield.

"Mr. Johnny's wife Merle (1979) asked me to create



something special, so I painted the old Antoon's with all the personal touches the whole town knows," said Deville. "I wanted someone to feel like they were there with all the things they remember such as the barbershop chairs and the popcorn machine."

Paper prints are available at \$25 for an 11 x 14, \$35 for a 16 x 20 and \$45 for an 18 x 24. Canvas prints are \$100 for an 11 x 14, \$125 for a 16 x 20 and \$150 for an 18 x 24.

For more information, contact Jill Bankston at (318) 357-4414 or go online to northwesternalumni.com.

Concert surprise: Bill Brent named honorary alum

Northwestern State University named Bill Brent, director of the Mrs. H.D. Dear and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts and director of bands at Northwestern State, an honorary alumnus.

Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb made the announcement at a concert concluding the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band's 100th anniversary on Sept. 30.

"Bill Brent has done so much for Northwestern State and cares so deeply for this university and its people. I know he bleeds purple," said Webb. "He has built the Spirit of Northwestern into one of the top bands in the country, brought the School of Creative and Performing Arts national prominence and been a positive impact on hundreds of students."

Brent has been at Northwestern State for 28 years. In that time, he has built one of the best marching band programs in the nation, increasing the number of members from 48 to more than 300. He has also served as conductor of the NSU Wind Symphony which has been chosen to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Southern Regional Conference.

The band was a finalist for the 2011 Sudler Trophy, an award to identify and recognize collegiate marching bands of particular excellence that have made outstanding contributions to the American way of life. NSU's band started 2011 by participating in the New Year's Day Parade and Festival in London.



Bill Brent, center, was recognized and congratulated by Director of University Advancement Drake Owens, left, and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb, right.

Northwestern's band was named one of the top eight in the country by the web site www.collegeotr.com in 2008. That year, Brent received the Outstanding Bandmaster Award for the state of Louisiana from the Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, international bandmasters fraternity.

In 2007, he was inducted into the Louisiana Music Educators Association Hall of Fame. Brent received the President's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his work at Northwestern State in 2002.

Homecoming draws alumna back to Natchitoches for first time in 40 years



Northwestern State alumna Ruth Pletz of Irving, Texas, left, with NSU Associate Director of Alumni Affairs Haley Blount and Pletz's husband Walter.

Northwestern State University's 2011 Homecoming celebration brought back countless memories for alumna Ruth Pletz.

The 1963 graduate came back to Natchitoches and Northwestern State for the first time in 40 years. She toured the city and campus and rode in the Homecoming parade with sorority sisters from Sigma Sigma Sigma.

The return to Natchitoches was a birthday present from her husband Walter, who accompanied her and took plenty of pictures as she rode in the parade.

Pletz was head cheerleader and student body vice president while an undergraduate. She was also on the Miss Potpourri Court and a resident advisor. One tradition Pletz was glad to see discontinued was throwing the head cheerleader into Cane River as part of the Homecoming pep rally.

Pletz earned a degree in sociology and worked for the state department of welfare in both Louisiana and Texas. She then became a design consultant for home-builders.

Pletz and her husband plan to visit Natchitoches and Northwestern State often. She is already looking forward to receiving her second diploma as a 50-year graduate in 2013.

Honorees recognized during 2011 Homecoming

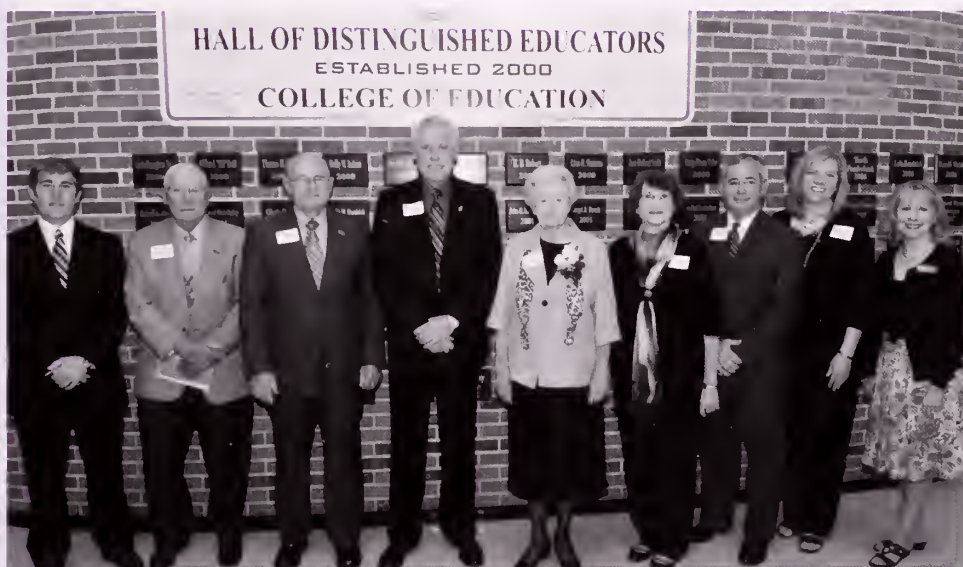
Long Purple Line



Inductees into the Northwestern State Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line, were Don and Virginia Burkett of Many, Dr. F. Gary Cunningham of Dallas, Dr. Walter Ledet Jr. of Sulphur, Barbara Spruill Moffett and Randy Moffett of Baton Rouge and Winnie Dowden Wyatt of Grapevine, Texas. They were honored at the annual Homecoming Banquet and at the Homecoming football game on Oct. 15. Out of more than 75,000 Northwestern alumni, only 104 people have been chosen for the honor. From left are Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Stephen and Mary Beth Van Sickle accepting on behalf of Don and Virginia Burkett, Wyatt, Barbara and Randy Moffett, Ledet and Mrs. Frances Outland accepting on behalf of her son, Dr. Cunningham.

The College of Education and Human Development recognized several individuals for their contributions to the field of education. From left are Director of University Advancement Drake Owens, Jerry Epperson of Baker, Winfred Sibille of Sunset, Dr. Ron McBride of Natchitoches, Hazel Norrid Fletcher of Coushatta, Evelyn Pyle Adams of Shreveport, William Britt of Castor, April Giddens of Natchitoches and Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. Adams, Britt, Epperson, Fletcher and McBride were inducted in the Hall of Distinguished Educators. Sibille was recognized as a Friend To Education and Giddens was honored for being named Louisiana Teacher of the Year.

Hall of Distinguished Educators



Honorary Alumnus and President's Distinguished Service Award

Graduate N Club Hall of Fame




2011 inductees into the Graduate N Club Hall of Fame were, from left, Marcus Spears, Vicky Newsom, Reggie Gatewood, Sonja Olsen-Gonzales, LaMark Carter, Roman Banks and Herbie Smith.



Pete Abington, left, was made an honorary alumnus of Northwestern State and Jimmy Berry, right, received the President's Distinguished Service Award. They were recognized during the Homecoming banquet.


SPOTLIGHTS

 **Creator/producer/writer Christine N. Bergeron (2004)** announces that her film project, a television series titled *Voodoo Theatre Presents*, will air during the latter part of 2012 on the American One network, which is shown in 30 million households in over 125 markets in the United States, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Voodoo Theatre Presents is an anthology television series based on the multiple legends and folklores of Louisiana. Each week, *Voodoo Theatre Presents* will introduce an entertaining story that embraces Louisiana's unique and rich culture.


Each half hour episode will feature adaptations of the legends and folklores that encompass Louisiana. Some of these legends have been around Louisiana for hundreds of years and have been passed on from generation to generation. In addition, *Voodoo Theatre Presents* plans to highlight mystical myths and enigmatic traditions filled with Louisiana heritage of all 64 parishes.

Voodoo Theatre Presents will have 13 episodes for each season and will film entirely in Louisiana. *Voodoo Theatre* is currently in production.

 **Dr. Dorothy "Dottie" Pinckard Martin (1980)** was appointed dean of Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle, Maine. Officials at the educational institution appointed Dr. Martin to the position on Aug. 1.


Martin earned two master's degrees in educational administration and supervision and in library science and educational administration at Northwestern State in 1980 and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi in 1987. Her undergraduate degree is from Louisiana College.

Martin currently serves on the state Board of Education on the Career and Technical Education committee as well as the certification committee. She is a former president and board director of the National Consortium for Specialized Secondary Schools of Mathematics, Science and Technology. She also is a member of a number of civic and community organizations.

 **Thomas E. Hargis (2005)** was named chief executive officer of Encounter Technologies, a corporation that specializes in social media, video technology and on-line streaming solutions.


Hargis graduated high school at the age of 15, as a freshman. He began working in the technology sector immediately after graduation and was running a \$1.5 million corporation by the age of 16. Under his management the corporation grew 25 percent over two years.


He graduated from Northwestern State with a degree in social science and has worked with several international and non-profit charitable organizations, including co-founding the ESAE Foundation. Originally from New Orleans, he and his family relocated to North Carolina in 2008. Until being named CEO of ENT1, he ran a federal transitional facility for inmates moving back into the workforce after incarceration. This included managing 25 employees and a budget in excess of \$1 million annually.

 **Michelle Craig (1999, Louisiana Scholars' College)**, was one of five outstanding female African-American attorneys honored at the Urban League of Greater New Orleans Gala, held July. Craig was named partner earlier this year at Adams and Reese after joining the firm in 2007. She also co-founded and served as

an executive member of the Urban League of New Orleans Young Professionals Chapter, which was recognized in 2008 by New Orleans CityBusiness as an "Innovators of the Year" Honoree. Also in 2008, Craig was named among the "Women of the Year" also by CityBusiness.

At Adams and Reese, Craig serves on the labor and employment team. Her representative clients include schools, fast food companies, offshore companies, home improvement retailers, entrepreneurs and other small businesses. Craig provides legal counsel for the National Association of African-Americans in Human Resources. She writes and provides client and attorney training on a variety of labor and employment issues. She served on the Board of Directors for the golf public-private partnership First Tee of New Orleans 2009-2010. She is also actively involved in the firm's efforts to promote diversity in all practice areas and the legal profession.

 **JoAnn Moses Brown (1981, 1996), RN, MSN**, has been named the Pediatric/PICU Unit manager at Rapides Women's and Children's Hospital in Alexandria. She is responsible for managing the unit's daily operation in providing care to pediatric and pediatric intensive care patients, including staffing and other issues affecting desired patient outcomes. Brown graduated from Northwestern State in 1981 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration. She received an associate's degree in nursing in 1991 from LSU-Alexandria, a bachelor's degree in nursing in 1996 from NSU and a master's degree from Regis University in 2008.

 **CPA Brett Kirkland (2008)** of Pineville was selected to serve a two-

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Andrews to head Donnelly Center

Loyola University New Orleans named **Valerie Andrews** (1977) director of the school's Shawn M. Donnelly Center, a one-stop shop for city nonprofits interested in getting public relations assistance for their efforts. Andrews is an assistant professor at Loyola's School of Mass Communication.

The Donnelly Center is known for its design, branding and public relations campaigns on behalf of some of New Orleans' best-known nonprofits, including the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Covenant House, March of Dimes and the Felicity Street Redevelopment Organization.

Since its founding in 1977, the Donnelly Center has helped more than 200 nonprofits by offering students an opportunity to assist organizations with advertising and promotional campaigns,

providing services as simple as the design of a flyer or as complex as an integrated communications campaign.

The Donnelly Center is one of a number of organizations supported by the School of Mass Communication, including the Loyola University Center for Environmental Communication.

Andrews joined the Loyola faculty in 2007 as a full-time extraordinary faculty member in the public relations sequence. She had been an assistant professor of mass communication at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. She has also taught at Louisiana State University, University of Southern Mississippi and Tulane University. She earned a bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations at Northwestern State and a master's in journalism from Louisiana State University. She has worked extensively in public relations and advertising for industries ranging from RVs and food service to printing and educational materials.

year term as a member at large on the Society of Louisiana CPAs' Young CPA Board. The board represents the interests of CPAs 35 and under, guides the nonprofit professional association in addressing the generational differences impacting younger members and develops opportunities to engage young CPAs in the profession and their communities. Kirkland, a senior accountant with LSUA, graduated from Northwestern State with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

✿ Alumni and former faculty **Maxine Southerland** (1942, 1958) and **Raymond Gilbert** (1970) were recognized in October as Natchitoches Treasures. The Natchitoches Treasures are a group of Natchitoches residents of retirement age who have made lasting contributions to the community through their generosity, service, volunteerism and spirit. A recognition ceremony sponsored by the city of Natchitoches was held in their honor.

✿ A feature on **Leo Shelton**, age 90, appeared in the Veterans Corner section in the October 12 edition of the Winnfield Enterprise. The article told how Shelton grew up in Winn Parish, attended school in Atlanta and graduated from Louisiana Normal in

1942, intending to be a teacher and PE coach. He was drafted by the Air Force two weeks after graduation, assigned to radio maintenance, trained and sent to several air bases across the country. That time included living in a tent city in Kansas City during a second radio school.

He spent most of 1944 in Memphis, where the radio department worked around the clock in three shifts. In 1945, after training in Utah, he flew from New York to Calcutta, India, and travelled 600 miles north through the Indian jungle to Assam at the base of the Himalayas. Shortly thereafter, he learned he had been sent there by mistake, so he hitched a quick flight back to Calcutta with the paymaster in a B-25, during which flight he saw the Taj Mahal.

Shelton was in Calcutta when the war ended and boarded a ship to Seattle in 1946 before his discharge.

Shelton took advantage of the GI Bill and earned a degree in pharmacy Loyola University in 1950. He married Dorothy Sowers in 1948, whom he met in Winnfield. The couple has three children, Steve, Becky and Mark, and eight grandchildren.

✿ **Dr. William "Bill" Hunt** of Georgetown, Texas, wrote to comment on the picture of The Entertainers in the Fall 2011 edition of Alumni

Columns, providing some background information on the group.

"The NSU Entertainers were established in 1974 at the request of President Arnold Kilpatrick," Hunt wrote. "I was the founder and director of the group. Although I retired as director of Research and Sponsored Programs at NSU in 2002, I was a professor of music and director of choral activities at that time. The NSU Entertainers worked closely with Alumni Affairs and High School Relations for several years. We traveled almost constantly and performed in many different venues for high school students, alumni, festivals, and civic groups."

Hunt still has many active ties with Natchitoches and NSU. On Nov. 19, he and retired professor Dr. Bill Bryant appeared in "Back Porch Friends," a concert of Louisiana folk music and jazz presented at San Gabriel Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, along with NSU alum **Bill Laceky** (1995).

In addition to featuring the talents of multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Bill Bryant and singer and singer and keyboarding Bill Hunt, seven area musicians backed the performers. Originally from Louisiana, trombonist Bill Laceky was featured in the 'Swing Set' on "Basin Street Blues."

Making an Impact

Alum helps improve long-term care through therapeutic music

It has long been recognized that music has a peculiar connection to the human brain, able to stimulate mood and cognition through rhythm, melody and repetition. Noted for its therapeutic qualities and tendency to evoke emotional response, music is being used more and more in the medical field to supplement medication treatment. While neurologists, psychiatrists and other scientists continue to study how the brain processes music, Northwestern State alumna Debi Cost (1995) witnesses the power of music through her job with Coro Health, an Austin, Texas-based company that provides individualized Music Prescriptions™ for people with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other conditions, such as the long-term effects of stroke.

Cost spends much of her time in memory care, primarily with Alzheimer's residents, coordinating audio therapy for residents whose music prescriptions help them address anxiety, depression, agitation and other psychological and physiological behaviors. Through her work, Debi has gained an understanding of the role music plays in fostering an improved quality of life.

"It's something that we all take for granted, but when you see a brain on music, it's amazing," she said. "We've witnessed some emotional stories. Tears always seem to appear. It's the only job I have ever had where I get to witness magic. It's the only way I can explain it."

Cost's company engages therapists, music designers and neuro-



Debi Cost visited with Ida Ruth Lenz, a former nurse who lives in memory care in Clear Lake, Texas. Lenz is a South Carolina native who raised four children, including two adopted from Korea. "She enjoys her classical, smooth jazz and even though she uses a walker, Miss Ida will bust a move when the right oldie but goodie comes on," Cost said.

scientists to create sequenced music prescriptions to suit each individual person. Prescriptions can be designed for specific outcomes, helping them to wake, sleep, relax or energize, with sensitivity to genre, key, beats per minute and volume. Therapeutic music can improve the long-term care experience for both the resident and caregivers.

"One day, I was visiting a memory care wing and I met a man who was very upset and wanted his music out," she said. "I could have just picked up his unit and walked out, but I didn't. I had been told he is pretty grumpy on most days and hard to please. I stayed with him and finally got him to open up and share with me that he liked Big Band swing music and Glen Miller. So I went back the next day with his new music prescription. I walked into his room and even as I turned it on, I was still nervous from his anger the

day before. Then I hit play and waited. In just a few seconds, he said 'Keep it on.' A lump formed in my throat and as I walked out he said 'Hey, thank you.' I replied with humble smile and said 'Sir, you are most welcome.' I cried the entire way home."

Although some cultures have used music in medicine for thousands of years, modern clinical studies in music therapy did not emerge until the U.S. Veterans Administration hospitals began to incorporate music therapy to help treat World War II veterans for post-traumatic stress disorder. Today, music therapy is being used in tandem with other treatment to address emotional and psychological symptoms for a variety of people.

Results of recent clinical trials conducted by the University of California Mind and Brain Center indicate a 27-54 percent reduction in agitation and depression over a six-month period for residents in memory care who utilize Coro Health's therapeutic music. Those results were published in the November 2011 *Journal of Music and Medicine*. As a mood elevator, music can also play a role in treatment for cancer, chronic pain and other health challenges.

"I have had friends and fellow alumni reach out to me and ask questions after family members have been diagnosed," Cost said.

Cost graduated from Northwestern State with a bachelor of science degree in family and consumer sciences, a concentration in fashion merchandising and a minor in business. She worked in the commercial industry for several years, working

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Congregation initiates scholarship to honor W.L. Wise

The congregation of the W.L. Wise Memorial Baptist Church established a scholarship in honor and memory of past church members. The scholarship will be awarded to a pre-med student with financial need enrolled at Northwestern State.

The church has a special interest in pre-med students since four members of the congregation who are descendants of Dr. W.L. Wise became physicians. The four are Dr. Edna Wise McLeod, Dr. Rodney Wise, Dr. Melissa Lynn and the late Dr. Wilhelmena Wise. All four received their undergraduate degrees from Northwestern State, according to Juanita Wise Lynn, daughter of Dr. W.L. Wise.

W.L. Wise Memorial Baptist Church was organized in 1938 in the Galbraith community with Willard Johnson as the first pastor. Dr. W.L. Wise was a physician who practiced in Galbraith, who travelled to see his patients

in the rural area, Mrs. Lynn said. Galbraith was once a thriving community in the southern part of Natchitoches Parish between Chopin and Lena.



Applicants for the scholarship must submit a letter of recommendation from their high school principal or guidance counselor and at least one teacher. They must maintain a 3.5 grade point average. The scholarship will be administered through the Northwestern State Foundation and Dr. Melissa Lynn.

Student facilitates donation from employer for School of Business

A Bossier City man who completed his degree in business administration at the conclusion of the summer semester coordinated a donation from his employer to benefit Northwestern State's School of Business. John McGee, a non-traditional student employed by Caesar's Entertainment Corporation at Horseshoe Casino, worked with his company's management and

Northwestern State business faculty to arrange a \$5,000 sponsorship through the NSU Foundation. Funds will be used for faculty research initiatives and career development programs for students.

McGee said he has a strong desire to motivate and mentor others who want to earn a degree. He will complete his degree during Northwestern State's fourth summer session and plans to pursue a master's in business administration at LSU-Shreveport.

McGee was aggressive in pursuing his goal. Beginning in 2008, he earned two-year associate degree at Bossier Parish Community College through the CALL (Center for Adult Learning in Louisiana) program before transferring to Northwestern State for a bachelor's degree. For the last four semesters, he commuted from Bossier City to attend classes on the Natchitoches campus.

The sponsorship at the School of Business is especially welcome at the university after last year's severe budget cuts, said Kilcoyne, who hopes to develop a relationship with Caesar's Entertainment for the possibility of internship opportunities for students.



John McGee, center, arranged a sponsorship for NSU's School of Business through his employer, Caesar's Entertainment Corporation. From left are Tony Hernandez, Dr. Austin Temple, McGee, Dr. Nat Briscoe, and Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne.

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with music design teams to create music environments for retail, hospitality and fitness firms before joining the Coro Health team, where she experiences the way music can improve people's lives on an emotional, physical and behavioral level.

"I love what I do and making a

difference is the exact reason I came on board with Coro," Cost said. "There is a beautiful quote, 'Be the change you wish to see in the world,' by Gandhi and we hope that with what we are doing and with proven clinical trials that the power of music will be a part of all care-plans for those who are

living in long term care."

Cost is also a Certified Eden Alternative Associate and co-chairs on the Marketing Committee for the Texas Culture Change Coalition. Inspiring stories and insights are available on Coro Health's YouTube channel at YouTube.com/user/CoroHealth.

Baton Rouge Reception



Left photo: Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb presented Mrs. A. Hays Town Jr. with a wooden cypress bowl by Natchitoches craftsman George Olivier in thanks for opening her home to the School of Business prior to the Northwestern State-LSU football game.



Right photo: The School of Business hosted a reception in the Baton Rouge home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hays Town Jr. From left are Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Monty Chicola, Ellis Coutee and Dr. Begona Perez-Mira.

NSBWA promotes networking, scholarship opportunities

The Northwestern State University School of Business formed an organization specifically for women in business, the Northwestern State Business Women Association. Membership is open to all women engaged in careers in various business fields.

"The purpose of this venture is to foster networking for women in business who are stakeholders in Northwestern, provide scholarships for women who are enrolled in the School of Business and promote and invest in the Northwestern State School of Business," said Tony Hernandez, chief development officer for the Northwestern State School of Business.

According to Hernandez, the first 100 members of NSBWA will be recognized as charter members and awarded a specially designed pin. Those interested in becoming charter members are invited to complete an application posted on



Members of the new Northwestern State Business Women Association invite area women to become charter members of the new organization. From left are Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Liz Gresham, Sue Champion, Dr. Brenda Hanson, Dr. Begona Perez-Mira and Barbara Russell. Application forms for the group can be completed on-line at business.nsula.edu/nsbwa.

the School of Business website, business.nsula.edu. Membership dues are \$100 per year. One-half of that amount will be designated for the scholarship fund; the rest will go towards operating expenses.

For more information on the

NBWA, contact School of Business faculty Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne at kilcoynem@nsula.edu, Margaret Vi-
enne at viennem@nsula.edu or Me-
lissa Aldredge at aldredgem@nsula.edu, or Hernandez at hernandez@nsula.edu or call ((318) 357-4243.

Professorship established to honor Dr. Tommy Johnson

The School of Business at Northwestern State University held a fundraiser for an endowed professorship in honor of Professor Emeritus of Business Dr. Tommy Johnson.

Endowed professorships are created with a \$60,000 gift, which is matched with \$40,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund. The interest generated by the \$100,000 endowment funds faculty research and development along with needed equipment. Donations of any size can be used toward the professorship.

The School of Business has eight endowed professorships and a \$1 million endowed chair.

Johnson taught in Northwestern's Department of Business-Distributive Education and Office Administration from 1967 until 1986. He was department head for 15 years and was coordinator of the Center for Computer Literacy from 1983 until 1986. He was inducted into the School of Business Hall of Distinction in 2001.

A native of Otis, Johnson is a 1958 graduate of Northwestern State. He taught at Mer Rouge and Glenmora before joining NSU's faculty. Johnson earned a Ph.D. in business education from Arizona State University.

While at Northwestern State, Johnson was named Outstanding Young Educator of Natchitoches Parish, Outstanding Vocational Teacher of Louisiana and Outstanding Business Educator of Louisiana.

In 1981, Johnson was the program chair for the National Business Education Conference in New Orleans and in 1983 he served on the Commission for High Technology Education. He was instrumental in developing the East/West Corridor Commission now an officially known as the El Camino East/West Corridor.

For more information on the Dr. Tommy Johnson Endowed Professorship, contact Chief Development Officer Tony Hernandez at (318) 357-4243 or at hernandez@nsula.edu.



Dr. Tommy Johnson is shown with his wife, Liz Johnson, and NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Choate Family Scholarship benefits DeSoto Parish student

A Mansfield family has created an endowed scholarship at Northwestern State University to benefit a student from DeSoto Parish. The Jerrie and Dennis Choate Endowed Scholarship is a two-year award that will benefit a student pursuing a degree in education. First preference will be given to a student from Mansfield High School before selection opens to students from DeSoto Parish.

The scholarship will be awarded in spring and fall semesters to junior or senior level students who must maintain a 2.5 grade point average.

"We are looking for a student in the field of education who



Members of the Choate family have established a scholarship at Northwestern State University to benefit a students from DeSoto Parish. Seated from left are Jerrie Ammons Choate, Dennis Choate and Jessica Choate McGrath holding Addison McGrath. On the back row are Cary Bruno, assistant academic coordinator for NSU Athletics; Denney Choate and Mike McGrath.

is longing to make a difference in Louisiana's school system," Dennis Choate said. "Educational leadership runs deep in the Choate family, with several family members as long-time Louisiana school teachers."

The Choate family's association with Northwestern State began with Dennis Choate's mother, Mary Stevenson Choate, who worked in Iberville cafeteria for nearly 20 years. Since that time, over 15 family members have graduated from NSU, including the Choate children, Jessica Choate McGrath; her husband, Mike McGrath; son Denney Choate, and his fiancé Cary Bruno.

Alumni Updates

1964

Dr. Carroll E. Slack is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee at Martin, married and lives in Martin, Tenn.

1967

Sandra Corley Dilbeck is a retired educator, married and lives in Florien.

1973

Rosalyn Scroggs Beall retired from Rapides Parish School Board as a speech pathologist. She is currently employed as a part time speech pathologist for Aurora R-8 School District, married and lives in Cape Fair, Mo.

1980

Rosalie MacDonald is a medical transcriptionist at St. Rita's Hospital and lives in Lima, Ohio.

1986

Lori Booth Rayburn is a registered nurse at Rayburn Surgical Clinic, married and lives in Pineville.

Kendria Losey Sanders is the principal at Goldonna Elementary and Jr. High School, married and lives in Goldonna.

1990

Joel R. Ebarb is the chair of the department of theatre at Purdue University and lives in West Lafayette, Ind

1992

Lee Ann Price, MPA, MAT, is a sociology professor at Wiley

College and lives in Bossier City.

1997

Therese Darlene Turnage is an assistant principal at North Central High School and lives in Opelousas.

1998

Darryl Keith Evans is the assistant director of bands at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, married and lives in Pine Bluff Ark.

2000

Michael Joseph Concilio is employed at Bossier High School, married to Ashley Renee Concilio ('02) and lives in Bossier City.

2002

Glen Harold Pierce is a technical sales representative for Schlumberger, married and lives in Canonsburg, Pa.

2004

Richard C. Schneider is employed by the United States Air Force, married and lives in Albuquerque, N.M.

2005

Shannon Adele Wentzell Harris is an educator at Biloxi High School, married and lives in Diamondhead, Miss.

Marc Edward Johnson is a family medicine resident (M.D.) at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and lives in Fayetteville, Ark.

2007

Stefanie Marlynn Randall Creel is employed

at LaSalle Detention Facility in immigration health services as a registered nurse. She is married and lives in Jena.

2010

Rachel C. LaBorde Juneau is a registered nurse at St. Francis Cabrini Women's and Children's Hospital, married and lives in Hessmer.

In Memory

Allen Haywood Plummer, Jr., Shreveport, June 26, 2011

Madeline Welch Read, Aug. 21, 2011, Amarillo, Texas

E. Loneta Graves, Sept. 11, 2011, Natchitoches

1942 – Doris Davis Ivy, Sept. 13, 2011, Baton Rouge

1945 – Norman L. Gunn, Oct. 30, 2011, Alexandria

1947 – Elsie Martin Harris, July 9, 2011, Dallas

1948, 1960 – Eula Mae Pelt Midkiff, Jan. 19, 2011, Pitkin

1951- James Kittredge Lee Sr., Aug. 27, 2011, Natchitoches

1951 – Peggy Elaine Matheson Sibley, Beaumont, Texas, June 7, 2011

1955 – Eblene Haynes Kelly, June 3, 2011

1958 – Ronald D. Lebo, Laporte, Ind., November 22, 2010

1975 – Curt Backa, July 13, 2011, Great Falls, Mt.

2007 – Chelsea Ann Umbach Yates, July 17, 2011, New Orleans

Coutees establish professorship in memory of mentors

A Baton Rouge couple created an endowed professorship in accounting at Northwestern State University in memory of three gentlemen who helped them as students. Ellis and Juanita Coutee of Baton Rouge presented the gift to the Northwestern State Foundation in memory of former Natchitoches residents Richard A. deVargas, Andres LaCaze and Dr. William Henry Pierson.

"Juanita and I decided to fund an endowed professorship in honor of these three men not solely based upon their financial assistance to us during our college days at NSU. They believed in us without question," Mr. Coutee said. "They exemplified the highest degree of principles, integrity, honesty, accountability and responsibility and these traits impressed me and laid a foundation for me to build upon earning our degrees and entering the real world work force. While I earned 100 percent of my college and living expenses, each person played a pivotal part in my growth and development into a professional accountant and the responsibilities yet to confront me upon my departure from NSU.

"We are indebted to these three people," Coutee said. "Even today, we openly admit that one reason for beauty and joy of Natchitoches is because of families like the Pierson, deVargas and LaCaze families. Their legacy will live and last forever. It is a special privilege and an honor for us to recognize and honor these prominent families and their monumental contribution to our lives."



Family members of the late Richard A. deVargas, Andres LaCaze and Dr. William Henry Pierson met with Northwestern State officials and alumni Ellis and Juanita Coutee, who created the Andres LaCaze, Richard A. deVargas and Dr. William Henry Pierson Professorship in Accounting at Northwestern State University. Seated from left are Doris James, Amy Whitford deVargas, Juanita Coutee, Helen LaCaze Presley and Mary Frances deVargas Lowrey. Standing are Jill Bankston, Dr. David James, Chase James, Richard deVargas III, Drake Owens, Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Ellis Coutee, Carroll Presey, Hester Leach and Louis Lowrey.

Why I Love NSU

I have had a lot of good memories made at NSU. Everything from making friends with students from overseas, to developing friendships that lasted a lifetime. I also had a period of maturing and enjoying living on my own. I enjoyed the freedom and the life I had while at NSU. I wouldn't trade the experiences that I had for the world. I am attempting to pursue graduate studies for a master's in middle school science. I truly feel that NSU is the place to find yourself. That's where I did and I love it!

— Joni Abshire Pecson (2005)



Atmos Energy made a donation of \$5,000 to the NSU Foundation. The donation will be used to assist Northwestern State University students and support the university. Atmos Energy Operations Supervisor Michael Rodgers, left, and Vice President of Operations Mike Mancil, right, presented the donation to Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb.

Reunions hosted by NSU Athletics in several sports are coming up, beginning with basketball events on back-to-back Saturdays in February.

- ➔ The annual **Demon Basketball Reunion is Saturday, Feb. 4**, at Prather Coliseum. All former Northwestern men's players, coaches, and staff members are invited to return with their families. Two Demon greats, Dexter Grimsley and Bo Rayford, will be enshrined in the Graduate N Club Hall of Fame at a pregame luncheon. All alumni will be recognized at halftime of the 2 p.m. game against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Call the Demon basketball office at (318) 357-4274 for information and to register.
- ➔ The **Lady Demon Basketball Reunion follows Saturday, Feb. 11**, in Prather Coliseum. Everyone who has been involved in the Lady Demon program through the years is invited to return along with family and friends. Two of the greatest NSU women basketball players, Joskeen Garner and Angela Simpson, will be inducted in the Graduate N Club Hall of Fame. All alumni will be recognized at halftime of the 2 p.m. game against Southeastern and there will be a postgame dinner with the 2011-12 team when Garner and Simpson will be honored. Call the Lady Demon basketball office at (318) 357-5891 for information and to register.
- ➔ An all-time **Demon Baseball Alumni Weekend** will be held on a home series weekend either March 30-April 1, or April 13-15. It's the first time ever that all NSU baseball alumni will stage a joint reunion. A special salute will go to the 2002 Southland Conference championship team on its 10th anniversary. Any former Demon baseball players, coaches or staff are welcome and encouraged to contact Haley Blount at the Alumni Association (318) 357-4414 and to check NSUDemons.com for details and the final date for the weekend festivities.
- ➔ A reunion of the **2002 Lady Demon softball NCAA Tournament team** and the **2002 men's outdoor track and field team** that won the Southland Conference championship will also be staged in spring 2012. Members of those teams, coaches or staff are encouraged to contact Haley Blount at the Alumni Association (318) 357-4414 and to check NSUDemons.com for details.

LOOKING BACK



Back in 1986-87, the NSU *Potpourri* featured a series of articles on the growth of the Spirit of Northwestern under the leadership of Bill Brent, who arrived at the university in July 1983 and in a few years grew the band from 48 members to 170 members.

"We may not win the game, but we sure won the half-time," said Brent, then 35. "The band is my release valve. I never really considered it a job because I'm doing what I like, just as the students are doing what they want to be doing."

Spirit of Northwestern section leaders were Tina Baccigalopi, Kristine Coriel and Rabon Vercher, flutes; Ken Campbell, Bryan Guillory and James LaCombe, trombones; Greg Dupuy and Robby Freeman, baritones; Jeff Zeringue, sousaphones; Jack Bedell, Doug Dement, Andy Harrison, John Maynard and George Thorn, percussion, and Francie Hebert, Paula Lesson and Suzie Nevels, flags. Dupuy was also the drum major. The band's feature twirler was Cindy McAbee with co-head twirlers Janet McClaughtery and Kelly Rushton. Vickie Parrish coordinated the Cane River Belles dance line.

Guess Who?

In commemoration of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences centennial, we take a look back to 1980 when home economics students studying meal management prepared for a summer outdoor party. Can you name the hostesses? The first five readers who know the answer can call the Alumni Center at (318) 357-4414 and win a prize.



Pictured in the Fall 2011 Guess

Who were Queen Jo Ann Robinson, Honorary Queen Mrs. Marguerite "Mama T" Townsend. Maids were Ann Gray, Pauline Ford, Sue Norman, Eleanor Wall, Carolyn Jacobs, Anita Pierce, Yvonne Nettles, Nancy Bradley, Carolyn Hall and Margaret Barousse. Those who guessed correctly were:

Pauline Ford Martin (1963)



Alumni Updates

Visit our website at
northwesternalumni.com
and click on "First Time Log-In"
or use this printed form.

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Alumni Updates" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date _____

Name: (Miss, Mrs. Mr.) _____

Please Circle

Last

First

Middle

Maiden

Current address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NSU undergraduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

NSU graduate degree(s): _____ Year of graduation: _____

During which years did you attend NSU? _____

Which organizations were you involved in while a student at NSU? _____

Place of employment _____

Job title: _____ Work phone: _____

Spouse's name: _____

Is your spouse an NSU graduate? ____ Yes ____ No

If yes, what degree(s) did he / she earn?

Spouse's undergraduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Spouse's graduate degree (s) _____ Year of graduation _____

Do you have children who are potential Northwestern students?

Please tell us their names, contact information, and what high school they attend.

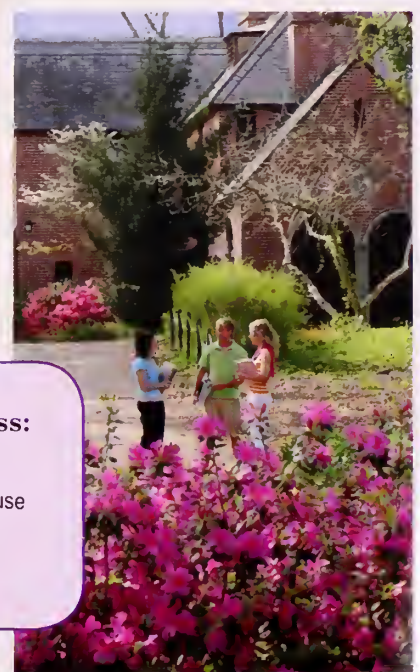
Please return to: Alumni Center • Northwestern State University • Natchitoches, LA 71497

If you would like information from Admissions, Financial Aid or the NSU Athletic Association, you can contact them at the following address:

University Recruiting
South Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-4503 or 800-327-1903
recruiting.nsula.edu

Financial Aid
Room 109, Roy Hall
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5961
financialaid.nsula.edu

Athletic Director
Room 101C, Athletic Fieldhouse
Natchitoches, LA 71497
(318) 357-5251
NSUDemons.com



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A reframed portrait of the late Sylvan N. Friedman for whom the Northwestern State University Student Union is named, will be permanently installed outside the doors of the Union's ballroom. From left are Dean of Students and Assistant Provost for Student Life Dr. Chris Maggio, Greg Friedman, grandson of Sylvan Friedman; Sam Friedman, son of Sylvan Friedman; and Tony Hernandez, development officer for the Northwestern State School of Business.